country. By a series of forced marches they made their way, at a heavy cost in life, over a route of possibly six thousand miles, much of it across incredibly difficult mountain terrain, to the Northwest. Here some Communists were already to be found. Subsequently, in territory in Shensi and in the northeastern portion of Kansu, a strong Communist enclave was developed. The capital was eventually at Yenan, west of the Yellow River, about a hundred miles south of the Great Wall. Chiang Kai-shek endeavored to have his troops attack them there and eliminate them. He entrusted the task to Chang Hsiieh-liang, who had headquarters at Hsianfu. Some of the Communists began fraternizing with Chang's troops and urged that the weakening civil strife be suspended and a common front presented against Japan. When Chiang Kai-shek went to Hsianfu to inspect the progress of the anti-Communist campaign, he was taken captive by Chang Hsiieh-liang (December, 1936). His life was in imminent danger, but late in the month he was released. Apparently he made no formal commitments to his captors, but the war against the Communists was called off and, in theory, harmony was established and cooperation against the Japanese menace undertaken. Yet suspicion persisted on both sides and the ostensible peace was little better than an armed truce. The Communists still maintained what in effect was a distinct government with its own armies and administration.

RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS! RENEWED JAPANESE AGGRESSION: THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION IS ACTIVELY PUSHED IN CHINA PROPER, 1937-1941

While the Chinese were moving, somewhat haltingly, toward

unity and were making progress toward the defense of their country, events in Japan were leading toward a more active extension of Japanese arms in China. Many Japanese, especially among the middle-aged and young, were discontented with conditions in their home land. They were feeling the pinch of economic pressure and were impatient with parliament, the political parties, and the capitalists, for to these they attributed the nation's woes. They wished more control by the military and more vigorous action on the continent. Through a series of assassinations of high